The Promise Grant program is supported by two charitable Funds at the Foundation:

- **The Promise Fund – El Fondo de la Promesa** - awards grants to charitable organizations that build belonging and empower people in DeKalb County who are marginalized and labeled as ‘other’.

- **Howard & Mildred Eychaner Fund** – awards grants to charitable organizations addressing affordable housing and healthcare needs of residents within DeKalb Township.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Organizations eligible to apply for a Promise Grant are:

1. Agencies operating as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations in DeKalb County, Illinois specifically those agencies working to empower underserved people with specific or one-time needs
2. School districts, schools, or education facilities
3. Churches and church related groups if proposed program is not religious in nature and does not require a religious commitment to participate
4. Municipal or governmental entities

**APPLYING FOR A GRANT**

Promise Grant applications are due online by 11:59 pm **October 1**.

To apply, organizations must complete an online application at [dekalbccf.org](http://dekalbccf.org). No hard copy applications are accepted. Grant decisions are generally made within one month of the application deadline and applicants will be notified electronically or by phone. Community Foundation staff and Promise Grant Committee members may contact applicants for further information.

Requests for funding should not exceed $5,000. The typical Promise Grant amount is under $800.

Contact grant staff at grants@dekalbccf.org or 815-748-5383 with questions, to discuss project ideas, and for help facilitating a successful application.

**GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES**

Proposed projects are reviewed based on the following priorities:

- Increase participation (empowerment) of underserved populations in the center of community life
- Develop leadership skills in marginalized populations
• Increase understanding and tolerance
• Raise educational levels and enhance the quality of life
• Strengthen organizations with the capacity to transform community perspectives
• Projects related to healthcare and affordable housing within DeKalb Township

PROJECTS GENERALLY NOT FUNDED

• Religious purposes (grants can be given to religious organizations for non-religious purposes, or facilities such as day-care centers that have nonprofit status independent from a sponsoring church or religious organization)
• Purchase of advertising
• Capital or operation debt reduction
• Any political campaign or to support attempts to influence legislative issues of any government body
• Financial support to specific individuals

GRANT REPORTING

All grant recipients are required to submit a final Promise Grant Report (available through the online grant system) upon completion of the project or purpose for which the grant was requested.

GRANT MODIFICATION REQUESTS

Grantees must obtain advance written approval from the Community Foundation for modifications to the originally proposed project. Significant changes, such as repurposing a grant or modifying the terms of a matching grant, require the approval of the Community Foundation's Board.

Grantees should also promptly inform the Community Foundation in writing of significant changes in project staffing, organizational leadership, scheduling, or budgeting, when such changes occur during the grant period. The Community Foundation reserves the right to suspend the use of grant funds if the change is considered material to the success of the grant.

GRANTMAKING NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of actual or perceived race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex and gender identity, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, pregnancy, veteran status, military obligations, marital or parental status, political affiliation, or any other improper criterion be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available by the Community Foundation, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance administered by the Community Foundation.

Updated: 8/15/22